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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Middleman et al

Docket: P-7025.06 CIP 5

Serial No.: 08/398,629

Group Art: 3307

Filed: March 3, 1995

Examiner: Hilten, J.

Title: DEVICE OR APPARATUS FOR MANIPULATING MATTER

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

DATE OF DEPOSIT

November 12, 1996

Honorable Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, as first class mail, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231.

FRAYDA M. NITSCHKE

Printed Name

Fradya M. Nitschke

Signature

Sir:

Response to Office Action

The Office Action dated May 14, 1996 has been carefully reviewed. In response, an amendment and remarks which are believed to obviate the rejection and place the application in condition for allowance are provided herein. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Amendment

Please cancel claims 3, 12, 13, 63, 65, 68, and 70-79 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (twice amended) A device or apparatus for manipulating matter at an intended manipulation temperature in a confined or inaccessible space, comprising:

(i) manipulator means at least partially constructed of at least one bent or twisted elongated shape memory alloy member having pseudoelasticity at the intended manipulation temperature, and

(ii) [an impermeable] a barrier material spanning said at least one alloy member, the barrier material being impermeable to the matter manipulated;

(iii) a hollow housing or cannula capable of initially holding at least the at least one alloy member in a relatively straightened state, and

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